

Clean Version of Replacement Paragraphs/Sections/Claims

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 24-48 and add the following new claims:

50. (New) A drywall joint compound having an initially wet state which is applied to a wall surface, and a dry hardened state which is sanded, said drywall joint compound comprising filler, binder, and dust reducing additive added in a sufficient quantity to reduce the formation of particles capable of becoming airborne by sanding the hardened drywall joint compound.
51. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises wax.
52. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises surfactant.
53. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises solvent.
54. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises oil.
55. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises a mixture of oil and surfactant.
56. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises a mixture of at least two oils.
57. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 56, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises a mixture of mineral oil, an unsaturated oil, and surfactant.

58. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein said dust reducing additive comprises from 1.5% to 6% of the drywall joint compound total wet weight.

59. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate dihydrate, and calcium sulfate hemihydrate.

60. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein said filler comprises from 55% to 75% of the drywall joint compound total wet weight.

61. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein said binder is selected from the group consisting of acrylic resins and vinyl acetate copolymers.

62. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein said binder comprises from 4% to 14% of the drywall joint compound total wet weight.

63. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein said dust reducing additive is mixed uniformly throughout said drywall joint compound.

64. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein when said drywall joint compound is allowed to harden and is sanded according to the test described in this specification, said joint compound generates a quantity of airborne particles having a size of less than 10 microns which is 50% less than the quantity of airborne particles that would be generated by said hardened joint compound without said dust reducing additive.

65. (New) A drywall joint compound as defined in claim 50, wherein when said drywall joint compound is allowed to harden and is sanded according to the test described in this specification, said hardened joint compound generates a quantity of airborne particles having a size of less than 10 microns which is less than 50 mg/m³.